SUGO MUSIC GROUP
DISTRIBUTION & PUBLISHING / 1985

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO MUSIC PUBLISHING

For Songwriters, Composers, Music Publishers & Rights Holders

Sugo Music Group | 2026

An educational guide to music publishing, publishing administration, performance and mechanical royalties, licensing, synchronization, copyrights, and royalty collection.

Read the Current Online Edition →

INTRODUCTION

This guide is part of the Sugo Music Group Music Knowledge Center, providing educational resources for artists, labels, songwriters, publishers, and music rights holders.

Welcome to the Sugo Music Group Music Publishing Guide, your educational resource for understanding how music publishing works in today's music industry. Whether you're a songwriter, composer, music publisher, or rights holder, this guide provides clear explanations, practical insights, and links to in-depth articles covering music publishing, publishing administration, copyrights, performance and mechanical royalties, licensing, synchronization, royalty collection, and other essential topics to help you understand and manage your music publishing rights.

Understanding Music Publishing

◆ *Music Publishing: Extra Revenue from Melodies and Lyrics*

Learn how music publishing can generate additional revenue from the underlying melodies and lyrics of your songs. Explore the role publishing plays in the music business, the rights associated with musical compositions, and why understanding publishing can help songwriters and rights holders identify important sources of income. *Read Article →*

◆ *Publishing and Distribution: What's the Difference?*

Music publishing and music distribution involve two different sets of rights. Learn the fundamental differences between administering musical compositions and distributing sound recordings, how each generates royalties, and why artists and songwriters who control both their recordings and compositions may benefit from understanding both sides of the music business. *Read Article →*

◆ *Publishing Music: How to Get Your Songs Published!*

What does it mean to get your songs published? Explore how music publishing works, the role publishers and publishing administrators can play, and important considerations for songwriters seeking to administer, license, and generate royalties from their musical compositions. *Read Article →*

Publishing Royalties

◆ *Publishing Royalties: A Guide for Songwriters and Music Publishers*

Public performance royalties are an important source of publishing income for songwriters and composers. Learn how these royalties are generated when musical works are publicly performed, how they are collected, and the role performance rights organizations play in helping songwriters receive royalties from the use of their compositions. *Read Article →*

◆ *Mechanical Royalties: A Guide for Songwriters and Music Publishers*

Mechanical royalties are generated through certain reproductions and uses of musical compositions. Learn what mechanical royalties are, how they differ from other types of publishing royalties, and why

they are an important part of the revenue generated by songs in today's music industry. For additional information about mechanical royalties and the administration of blanket mechanical licenses for eligible streaming and download services in the United States, visit The Mechanical Licensing Collective (The MLC). *Read Article →*

Publishing Rights & Organizations

◆ *Mechanical Rights Explained*

Understanding mechanical rights is an important part of understanding music publishing. Explore how mechanical rights relate to the reproduction and distribution of musical compositions, when these rights may generate royalties, and why songwriters, composers, publishers, and other rights holders should understand how they work. *Read Article →*

◆ *Performance Rights Organizations: What Musicians Need to Know*

Performance Rights Organizations (PROs) play an important role in the collection and distribution of performance royalties. Learn what PROs do, how they represent songwriters and publishers, and why PRO affiliation is an important consideration for music creators seeking to collect royalties generated by public performances of their compositions. *Read Article →*

Copyright & Protecting Your Music

◆ *Music Copyright: A Guide to Protecting and Registering Your Music*

Copyright is at the foundation of music publishing. Learn about copyright protection for music, the rights associated with original musical works, and important considerations for songwriters and composers seeking to understand and protect their creative works. For additional information about copyright registration and copyright law, visit the U.S. Copyright Office. *Read Article →*

Related Music Publishing Resources

Review Sugo Music Group's Music Publishing Agreement →

Learn More About Sugo Music Publishing →

Explore the Sugo Music Knowledge Center →

RESOURCES & AUTHORITY

Read the Current Online Edition

For the latest online edition of this guide and related information:

Read the Current Music Publishing Guide →

About Sugo Music Group

Sugo Music Group is a global music distribution and publishing company serving recording artists, record labels, songwriters, publishers, and music rights holders worldwide. Founded in 1983, Sugo Music Group provides digital music distribution, publishing administration, royalty collection, synchronization licensing, rights management, and related music-industry services.

Visit Sugo Music Group →

About the Author

Stevan Pasero is the founder and CEO of Sugo Music Group, a recording artist, composer, guitarist, music executive, and author of *Musical Darwinism: The Past Is the Portal to the Future of Music*. His career in recorded music spans more than four decades, encompassing music creation, distribution, publishing, licensing, and rights administration.

Additional Resources

Sugo Music Knowledge Center

Guides, FAQs, agreements, and educational resources covering music distribution, publishing, royalties, licensing, and the music industry.

Explore the Knowledge Center →

Music Distribution Guide

Learn how digital music distribution works, including streaming platforms, distribution partners, fees, royalties, release planning, metadata, and industry best practices.

Read the Music Distribution Guide →

Music Royalties Guide

Learn how music royalties are generated, collected, and paid from streaming, downloads, performance, mechanical, synchronization, and other music uses.

Read the Music Royalty Guide →

Music Publishing Agreement

Review Sugo Music Group's current Music Publishing Agreement covering publishing administration, licensing, royalty collection, rights, and related services.

View the Music Publishing Agreement →

Music Distribution Agreement

Review Sugo Music Group's current Music Distribution Agreement, including terms, services, royalties, and frequently asked questions.

View the Music Distribution Agreement →